

West Carleton Softball Association

Constitution 2017 Softball Season (updated April 15, 2017)

Article I: NAME

The name of the organisation shall be the West Carleton Softball Association (WCSA).

Article II: OBJECTIVE

1. The primary purpose of the WCSA shall be to organize youth house league softball leagues for teams submitted to it by recognized Community Associations in West Carleton. To this end, the responsibilities of the WCSA are:
 - a) Scheduling: To schedule all games for teams submitted to it by the Community Associations.
 - b) Rules: To establish a set of rules for leagues organised by the WCSA. The rules of play shall be those defined by "Softball Canada" as modified in this document.
2. The WCSA shall, where possible, assign season-end tournaments to individual Community Associations for each of the leagues organized for that season.
3. The WCSA shall, where possible, organize "select" teams comprised of WCSA players from different Community Associations at various age / gender groups to represent West Carleton at tournaments and/or exhibition games.
4. The WCSA shall protect and promote the mutual interests of the members, and provide training opportunities for players and coaches.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership in the WCSA shall be composed of such softball teams which:
 - a) Are registered with and accepted by the WCSA from recognized Community Associations in West Carleton;
 - b) Agree to abide by and comply with the Constitution and by-laws of the WCSA;
 - c) Have obtained appropriate liability insurance.
2. Only the following Community Associations in West Carleton are recognised by the WCSA:
 - a) Constance and Buckham's Bay Community Association
 - b) Dunrobin Community Association
 - c) Fitzroy Harbour Community Association
 - d) Huntley Community Association
 - e) Kinburn Community Association
 - f) Corkery Community Association *** (Not currently an active member)
3. Additional Associations will be recognised in the event that:
 - a) They are appropriately insured;
 - b) They have a sufficient number of players in order to register teams with the WCSA;

- c) They are capable of supplying adequate diamond time for their registered teams;
- d) They supply a voting representative to sit on the executive of the WCSA;
- e) They are accepted by vote into the WCSA.

Article IV: OFFICERS

1. Each recognized Community Association affiliated with the WCSA shall appoint at least one representative. Such appointed representatives shall form the Executive of the WCSA.
2. The Executive shall elect or appoint annually, at its first meeting of the calendar year, a President, Vice-president, Umpire in Chief, Secretary-Treasurer from among its members.
3. Executive voting privileges are extended to a single representative from each of the recognized community associations. The President shall not represent a Community Association. The President shall abstain from voting unless required to break a stalemate. If a stalemate occurs, the president shall vote to break the tie.
4. The Executive shall have the right to create any additional non-voting positions that they deem necessary.
5. The President of the WCSA will meet and interact as required with other recognized minor ball associations.

Article V: AMENDMENTS

The Constitution of the WCSA shall not be altered except at a meeting of the Executive and a notice of the proposed amendments shall be provided by the Secretary in writing prior to the date of the meeting. All proposed amendments to the Constitution or By-laws require a two thirds majority of the voting members for approval.

By-laws: RULES OF ORDER

Rules of Order to be followed are laid down by the By-laws of Softball Canada. Unless otherwise stated, Softball Canada Rules will govern all games.

Age groups for 2017 will be as follows:

League Name	Gender	Birth Years	Distances		Ball Size
			Pitching	Bases	
Atom (5pitch)	Mixed	2009, 2010	22'	40'	11"*
Mite	Mixed	2007, 2008	30'	45'	11"*
Squirt	Mixed	2005, 2006	35'	55'	11"
Peewee	Boys	2003, 2004	40'	60'	12"
Peewee	Girls	2003, 2004	38'	60'	12"
Bantam	Boys	2001, 2002	42'	60'	12"
Midget	Boys	1999, 2000 +	46'	60'	12"
Bantam / Midget	Girls	1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 +	40'	60'	12"

* Incredi-ball-soft training softball.

+ Players born in 1998, 1997 and 1996 may permitted during 2017 season

By-law I: REGISTRATION

The following rules shall govern the registration of the players.

1. The number of players on any team registered with the WCSA shall not have less than 6 or more than 15 players. Teams with a larger roster will be accepted upon approval of the voting members of the WCSA Executive.
2. All players must register at their community centre before the player is allowed on the playing field.
3. A maximum of two (2) overage players will be allowed on any given team provided that:
 - a. Each overage player must be approved by the voting members of the WCSA Executive.
 - b. Each overage player is not more than one year older than the age category of the league in which they will play.
4. Unless permission is granted otherwise by the WCSA executive, overage players will be restricted in their defensive positions as follows:
 - a. An overage player may not pitch or catch
 - b. Only one overage player may play in the infield at any given time.
5. Teams failing to comply with the above rules shall be considered in default and any games played in default shall be automatically forfeited to the opposing team.

WCSA By-law II: GENERAL

1. The Executive shall determine the format of league, play-off and/or tournament games.
 2. A game called by the umpire on account of darkness, rain, etc., shall be a regulation game providing four or more complete innings have been
- Amended as of April 2017

played or if the home team shall have made more runs at the end of its third inning or before the completion of its fourth inning, than the visiting team has made in four complete innings.

3. Unless otherwise ordered, all games shall start at the following times with a fifteen minute grace period in which to field a team. If no team has been fielded at the end of the grace period the team at fault shall forfeit the game.
 - a) Games on unlighted diamonds: 6:30 p.m.
 - b) Games on lighted diamonds: early game - 6:30 p.m., late game - 8:30 p.m.
4. Games will be a maximum of seven innings. For Atom and Mite, no new inning shall begin after 1h 15 minutes from the start of the game. For Squirt and above, no new inning shall begin after 1h 30 minutes from the start of the game.
5. The home team shall provide the plate umpire and the base umpire. Umpires shall be at least one (1) year older than the players on the competing teams.
6. Both the home and visiting teams shall provide a suitable ball for each game.
7. If a team is unable to meet a league commitment for any reason and they know beforehand, they should phone or email the coach of the opposing team:
 - a) At least 1-hour prior to game time in the event of inclement weather, or,
 - b) At least 2-days prior to the game date for other reasons. A forfeit will apply unless a mutual agreement is reached by both teams to re-schedule the game.
8. The home team must notify the umpire(s) of any game cancellation.

WCSA By-law III: RULES MODIFICATIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

The following modifications to the rules as defined by Softball Canada will be followed for league, tournament and/or playoff games for the following leagues. These rules will override By-law II if there are differences.

1. ALL LEVELS

- a) A team may field a minimum of seven players (six in Atom and Mites) with no penalty.
- b) Should a player arrive after the start of a game, his or her name shall be put at the bottom of the batting order and the player may enter the game.
- c) Each player must play at least two innings on the field.
- d) In leagues where scores are kept, it shall be the responsibility of the winning team coach to report the score to the convenor. In the case of a tie, the home team shall report the score.
- e) Steel cleats are not allowed.
- f) All players shall be listed on the batting order and there is no limit to defensive substitutions.
- g) All players must wear a helmet when batting and/or running the bases. Facial protectors are recommended, but not mandatory.

2. ATOM (U8, 5-pitch)

- a) A maximum of nine players are on the field defensively. The "pitcher's helper" may play beside or behind the batting team's adult pitcher. Three outfielders must be stationed 10 feet outside the base paths. This is to eliminate stacking the infield and to encourage and instruct the children in position play.
- b) Coaches are encouraged to allow players to play multiple defensive positions during each game.
- c) Pitching by players may be introduced at the discretion of the coaches, halfway through the season. This should be limited to 2nd year players moving up to Mites next year and/or players have taken CANpitch training. A helmet and mask are mandatory for the youth pitchers for safety reasons.
- d) Players are to be encouraged to throw and catch the ball. The excessive practice on the part of the player, especially the pitcher, of running the ball to first base or home or of rolling the ball will result in the runner being called safe.
- e) An inning is over when all the players on a team have batted once.
- f) The coach of the team at bat must announce when the last batter is up when they come to the plate. On the last play, the play at home is a forced play.
- g) If a batter does not hit a fair ball after five pitches they are out; this also pertains to the last batter.
- h) The children must be taught not to throw their bat after hitting the ball. A player who throws a bat should be warned the first time and the reasons for the rule explained. If the player throws the bat again during the game they are to be called out.
- i) The runner can only run when the ball is in play. A runner cannot lead off a base or steal a base.
- j) The ball is dead when a fielder attempts to return the ball to the infield. Runners can proceed to the base to which they were advancing at their own risk.
- k) A runner may not advance on any overthrown ball; it does not matter if the ball is in fair territory or out of play.
- l) The coaches of the defensive team shall be allowed on the playing field to instruct the players on all aspects of defensive softball.
- m) No umpires will be assigned. The coaches will determine when players are safe or out by consensus.
- n) Scores and standings will not be kept in the Atom division, and the season will include a "fun day".

3. MITE (U10)

- a) The coaches of the defensive team shall be allowed on the playing field to instruct the players on all aspects of defensive softball.
- b) Coaches are encouraged to allow players to play multiple defensive positions during each game. No player should sit out a second inning defensively until all players have sat one inning.
- c) Three outfielders are employed. These players must be stationed 10 feet outside the base paths. This is to eliminate stacking the infield and to encourage and instruct the children in position play.
- d) The pitcher may use a windmill providing he/she can control the delivery of the ball to avoid injury to other players.
- e) There is no stealing.
- f) Base runners may leave their base when the ball crosses the plate. They may only advance to the next base on a ball hit in fair territory.
- g) The batter is automatically out on a dropped third strike.
- h) The infield fly rule does not apply.
- i) A player may not pitch more than two innings during a single game, and they may not be consecutive.
- j) Pitcher must have at least one foot on the mound and the second foot on or behind the mound with only a one step delivery of the ball. The pitcher may not step backwards or leap when delivering the ball.
- k) The ball is dead when returned to the infield, inside the base paths. Runners can proceed to the base to which they were advancing at their own risk.
- l) A runner may not advance on any overthrown ball; it does not matter if the ball is in fair territory or out of play.
- m) Umpires are to regard the plate with a width of 21" (as opposed to the standard 17"). A stripe or line may be added to the field to acknowledge the larger "plate".
- n) If the catcher for the next inning is on the bases, he/she can be substituted at any time with another runner to speed up the equipment change.
- o) Bunting shall not be permitted.
- p) There are no walks. After a 4th ball, the batter will have a count against him/her. It will either be 4 balls (0 strikes 4-0), 4-1 or 4-2. The hitter's coach or designate for the offensive team will now come in to pitch to his/her own batter and carry on the count. The batter will either bat the ball in play or strike out. Foul balls when the coach is pitching are treated as in regular softball (i.e. if a batter fouls off a "4-2" pitch, he or she is not out).
- q) Any pitcher who hits two batters in an inning shall be removed and replaced with another pitcher. (Note: this only applies if the umpire judges that it was not possible for the batter to avoid being hit.) Players hit by a pitch do not advance to first - it shall be considered a "ball" for the batter's count.
- r) ****NEW 2015****.
 - i. For the first four weeks of games, the inning is over when all the players on a team have batted once.
 - ii. For the final three weeks and the year end "fun day", an inning shall be completed when three outs are made by the defensive team, or all players on team have batted.
- s) The coach of the team at bat must announce when the last batter of the inning is up when they come to the plate. On the last play, the play at home is a forced play.
- t) Standings will not be kept in the Mite division, and the season will conclude with a "fun day".

4. SQUIRT (U12)

- a) A team will be allowed to make unlimited defensive substitutions at any stage of the game except when the ball is in play.
- b) The in-field fly rule does not apply.
- c) A player may not pitch more than three innings during a single game (9 outs) and no more than two consecutive innings.
- d) If the catcher for the next inning is on the bases with two out, he/she can be substituted at any time with another runner to speed up the equipment change.
- e) The pitcher may use a windmill providing he/she can control the delivery of the ball to avoid injury to other players.
- f) Pitcher must have at least one foot on the mound and the second foot on or behind the mound with only a one step delivery of the ball. The pitcher may not step backwards or leap when delivering the ball.
- g) No base runner may lead off until a pitched ball has crossed the plate. Players leaving early will be called out for a lead off.
- h) Base runners may only steal one base at a time. If there is an overthrow on an attempted steal at second, the runner may advance to third at their own risk. However, if there is an overthrow on an attempted steal at third, the player may not advance home (see j) below).
- i) A batter may only advance one base on an overthrown ball after a fair hit. If the defensive team tries to make a second (or third) attempt to put the player out at the next base, the player may advance another one base each time.
- j) A base runner from third may only score after a fair hit, or be forced home by a bases-loaded walk or batter hit by pitch. The base runner cannot steal home, score on an overthrow on an attempted steal, or score on a misplayed throw back to the pitcher.
- k) The batter is automatically out on a dropped third strike.
- l) Each team is limited to 5 runs in their half of the inning. (Exception: last inning. See m).
- m) In the last inning the following rule ("5 runs or deficit +1") applies:
 - i. If Visitors are behind by more than 5 runs, they are limited to run differential plus 1 run
 - ii. If Visitors are behind by fewer than 5 runs, 5 run maximum
 - iii. If Visitors are ahead, 5 run maximum
 - iv. If the Home team is behind, they are limited to the run differential plus 1
 - v. Any time the home team is ahead in the final inning, the game is over
- n) Scores and standings will be kept. It is the responsibility of the winning team to report the result to the league convenor. Regular season games may end in a tie - in that case, both teams should report to the league convenor.
- o) The season will conclude with playoffs and/or a tournament, format determined at the discretion of the Executive.

5. PEEWEE (U14)

- a) A team will be allowed to make unlimited defensive substitutions at any stage of the game except when the ball is in play.
- b) A player may not pitch more than three innings during a single game (9 outs) and no more than two consecutive innings.
- c) The pitcher may use a windmill providing he/she can control the delivery of the ball to avoid injury to other players.
- d) Pitcher must have at least one foot on the mound and the second foot on or behind the mound with only a one step delivery of the ball. The pitcher may not step backwards or leap when delivering the ball.
- e) The infield fly rule is in effect.
- f) Players may not lead off until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. If a runner leads off they will be called out.
- g) Stealing of bases is permitted, including home.
- h) The batter may run to first on a dropped third strike.
- i) Each team is limited to 5 runs in their half of the inning. (Exception: last inning. See j)).
- j) In the last inning the following rule ("5 runs or deficit +1") applies:
 - i. If Visitors are behind by more than 5 runs, they are limited to run differential plus 1 run
 - ii. If Visitors are behind by fewer than 5 runs, 5 run maximum
 - iii. If Visitors are ahead, 5 run maximum
 - iv. If the Home team is behind, they are limited to the run differential plus 1
 - v. Any time in the last inning the home team is ahead, the game is over
- k) Scores and standings will be kept. It is the responsibility of the winning team to report the result to the league convenor. Regular season games may end in a tie - in that case, the home team should report to the league convenor.
- 1) The season will conclude with playoffs and/or a tournament, format determined at the discretion of the Executive.

6. SQUIRT/PEEWEE - combined

If squirt and peewee age groups are combined, the same rules should be followed as per PEEWEE Rules.

7. BANTAM/MIDGET (U16 / U18)

Note: For 2015, WCSA teams at the bantam and midget level will be joining to play teams in the Stittsville Minor Softball Association and using SMSA local rules.

- a) A team will be allowed to make unlimited defensive substitutions at any stage of the game except when the ball is in play.
- b) Players may not pitch more than three innings (9 outs) during a single game.
- c) The pitcher may use a windmill providing he/she can control the delivery of the ball to avoid injury to other players.

WCSA By-law IV: PROTESTS AND SUSPENSIONS

- a) Any member of the league violating the Constitution or By-laws or refusing to abide by the decision of the Executive shall be expelled or suspended.
- b) Any league member found guilty of striking an official shall be liable for suspension indefinitely. The length of suspension will be determined by the executive of the WCSA.

- c) Umpires and coaches are requested to report any league member or spectator using obscene or profane language. Violators may be suspended. The length of suspension will be determined by the executive of the WCSA.
- d) A player or coach under the influence of any intoxicant at a game shall be suspended indefinitely at the discretion of the executive.
- e) Offences incurred during play-off/tournament games will be dealt with by the onsite co-ordinator for the tournament.

WCSA By-law V: TOURNAMENTS

- a) The executive shall determine the format of the tournament. In the event of a dispute during a tournament, the decision of the onsite tournament co-ordinator shall be final.